

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following heading immediately before the first full paragraph on page 1 of the specification:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading immediately before the second full paragraph on page 3 of the specification:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification as follows:

To this end, the invention provides an optical cross-connect unit of multigranular architecture comprising:

- a first stage for switching wavelength bands and comprising:
 - a switching optical matrix (also known as the first matrix) for switching wavelength bands and having first input ports (also known as switch ports) and first output ports (also known as switch ports) and second input ports (also known as redirection ports) and second output ports (also known as redirection ports),
- demultiplexer means for demultiplexing wavelength bands and having p groups of n outputs associated with n distinct wavelength bands, each output being connected to a distinct input switch port of the first matrix,

- multiplexer means for multiplexing wavelength bands and having p groups of n inputs each connected to a distinct output switch port of the first matrix,
- a second stage for switching wavelengths and comprising:
 - a switching matrix (also known as the second matrix) for switching wavelengths and having first input ports (also known as switch ports) and first output ports (also known as switch ports),
 - demultiplexer means for demultiplexing wavelengths and each input of which is connected to a distinct output redirection port of the first matrix and each output of which is connected to a distinct input switch port of the second matrix, and
 - multiplexer means for multiplexing wavelengths and each input of which is connected to a distinct output switch port of the second matrix and each output of which is connected to a distinct input redirection port of the first matrix,

which cross-connect unit is characterized in that the first matrix includes a series of first optical switching submatrices ~~disposed in parallel~~ and the second matrix includes a series of second switching submatrices ~~disposed in parallel~~.

Please insert the following heading immediately after the fifth full paragraph on page 6 of the specification:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading immediately before the first full paragraph on page 7 of the specification:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the third full paragraph on page 7 of the specification as follows:

The first stage 100 comprises an optical switching matrix for switching wavelength bands, taking the form of a pair of first optical switching submatrices 1,2 ~~disposed in parallel~~. Each is dedicated to a respective distinct wavelength band B1, B2, each of which comprises four wavelengths λ_{11} , λ_{12} , λ_{13} , λ_{14} and λ_{21} , λ_{22} , λ_{23} , λ_{24} , respectively, for example, usable for carrying digital data.

Please amend the third full paragraph on page 8 of the specification as follows:

Moreover, in a situation where the input and output fibers carry more than two wavelength bands, one or more other first optical switching matrices that do not necessarily include redirection ports are added ~~in parallel~~.

Please amend the present Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

The present invention relates to an optical cross-connect unit of multigranular architecture (1000) including a first stage (100) for switching wavelength bands and including an optical switching matrix for switching wavelength bands, demultiplexing and multiplexer means (10 to 20') for demultiplexing and multiplexing wavelength bands, a second stage (200) for switching wavelengths and including a switching matrix for switching wavelengths, and demultiplexing and multiplexer means (30 to 60') for demultiplexing and multiplexing wavelengths. The first matrix of the invention includes a series of first optical switching submatrices (1, 2) disposed in parallel and the second matrix of the invention includes a series of second switching submatrices (3, 4) disposed in parallel.